

Police: Minnesota officer meant to draw Taser, not handgun

By MOHAMED IBRAHIM
BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn.
(AP) — The police officer who fatally shot a Black man during a traffic stop in a Minneapolis suburb apparently intended to fire a Taser, not a handgun, as the man struggled with police, the city's police chief said Monday.
Brooklyn Center Police Chief Tim Gannon described the shooting as "an accidental discharge." It happened as police were trying to arrest the man on an outstanding warrant. "I'll Tase you! I'll Tase you! Taser! Taser! Taser!" the officer is heard shouting on her body cam footage released at a news conference. She draws her weapon after the man breaks free from police outside his

car and gets back behind the wheel.
After firing a single shot from her handgun, the car speeds away, and the officer is heard saying, "Holy (expletive)! I shot him." Daunte Wright, 20, died Sunday in a metropolitan area that was already on edge because of the trial of the first of four police officers charged in George Floyd's death. Wright's death sparked violent protests, with officers in riot gear clashing with demonstrators into Monday morning.
Gannon said at a news conference that the officer made a mistake, and he released the body camera footage less than 24 hours after the shooting.

Continued on next page



A man raises his fist in the air as he yells at police donning riot gear at 63rd and Lee Avenues North, Sunday, April 11, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Associated Press



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Continued from Front

The footage showed three officers around a stopped car, which authorities said was pulled over because it had expired registration tags. When another officer attempts to handcuff Wright, a second officer tells Wright he's being arrested on a warrant. That's when the struggle begins, followed by the shooting. Then the car travels several blocks before striking another vehicle.

"As I watch the video and listen to the officer's command, it is my belief that the officer had the intention to deploy their Taser but instead shot Mr. Wright with a single bullet," Gannon said. "This appears to me from what I viewed and the officer's reaction in distress immediately after that this was an accidental discharge that resulted in the tragic death of Mr. Wright."

The state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension was investigating.

A female passenger sustained non-life-threatening injuries during the crash, authorities said. Katie Wright said that passenger was her son's girlfriend.

Gannon would not name the officer but described her as "very senior." He would not say whether she would be fired following the investigation.

"I think we can watch the video and ascertain whether she will be returning," the chief said.

Court records show Wright was being sought after failing to appear in court on charges that he fled from



Men jump on the hood of a police car after a family said a man was shot and killed by law enforcement on Sunday, April 11, 2021, in Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Associated Press

officers and possessed a gun without a permit during an encounter with Minneapolis police in June. In that case, a statement of probable cause said police got a call about a man waving a gun who was later identified as Wright."

Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott called the shooting "deeply tragic."

"We're going to do everything we can to ensure that justice is done and our communities are made whole," he said.

Speaking before the unrest, Wright's mother, Katie Wright, urged protesters to stay peaceful and focused on the loss of her son.

"All the violence, if it keeps

going, it's only going to be about the violence. We need it to be about why my son got shot for no reason," she said to a crowd near the shooting scene in Brooklyn Center, a city of about 30,000 people on the northwest border of Minneapolis. "We need to make sure it's about him and not about smashing police cars, because that's not going to bring my son back." Protesters who gathered near the scene waved flags and signs reading "Black Lives Matter." Others walked peacefully with their hands held up. On one street, someone wrote in multi-colored chalk: "Justice for Daunte Wright."

Katie Wright said her son called her as he was getting pulled over.

"All he did was have air fresheners in the car, and they told him to get out of the car," Wright said. During the call, she said she heard scuffling and then someone saying "Daunte, don't run" before the call ended. When she called back, her son's girlfriend answered and said he had been shot. Shortly after the shooting, demonstrators began to gather, with some jumping atop police cars. Marchers also descended on the Brooklyn Center Police Department, where rocks and other objects were thrown at officers, authorities said. President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting, and the White House has been in touch with the governor, mayor and local law enforcement, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

"We were incredibly saddened to hear about the loss of life at the hands of

law enforcement in Minnesota yesterday," she said. National Guard troops and law enforcement officers continued to guard the front of the police department on Monday morning. Police were erecting a concrete barrier as Minnesota State Patrol officers joined the line in front of the precinct.

Several people and reporters watched from across the street as traffic returned to normal on the street where protesters were met with tear gas the night before. One man yelled at the officers using a megaphone as others flew Black Lives Matter flags.

About 20 businesses were broken into at the city's Shingle Creek shopping center, Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington said at a news conference. The National Guard was activated, and Brooklyn Center Mayor Mike Elliott announced a curfew that expired shortly before daybreak.

The trial of Derek Chauvin, the former Minneapolis officer charged in Floyd's death, continued Monday. Floyd, a Black man, died May 25 after Chauvin, who is white, pressed his knee against Floyd's neck. Prosecutors say Floyd was pinned for 9 minutes, 29 seconds. he judge in that case refused Monday to sequester the jury after a defense attorney argued that the panel could be influenced by the prospect of what might happen as a result of their verdict.

More National Guard members and state law enforcement personnel were to be deployed around the Twin Cities and in Brooklyn Center in addition to teams already in place for Chauvin's trial at the Hennepin County courthouse in Minneapolis, Harrington said. □

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White House grades states' infrastructure as it pushes bill

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden White House is amplifying the push for its \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package with the release of state-by-state breakdowns that show the dire shape of roads, bridges, the power grid and housing affordability.

The figures in the state summaries paint a decidedly bleak outlook for the world's largest economy after years of repairs being deferred and delayed. They suggest that too much infrastructure is unsafe for vehicles at any speed, while highlighting the costs of extreme weather events that have become more frequent with climate change as well as dead spots for broadband and a dearth of child care options.

President Joe Biden is scheduled to meet Monday afternoon with Republican and Democratic lawmakers and can use the state summaries to show that his plan would help meet the needs of their constituents.

Drawn from an array of private and public data, the reports show there are 7,300 miles (11,748 kilometers) of highway in Michigan alone that are in poor condition. Damaged streets in North Carolina impose an average yearly cost of \$500 on motorists. Iowa has 4,571 bridges in need of repair. There is a roughly 4-in-10 chance that a public transit



People sit at the base of a transmission tower in North Arlington, N.J., Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Associated Press

vehicle in Indiana might be ready for the scrap yard. Pennsylvania's schools are short \$1.4 billion for maintenance and upgrades.

Most states received a letter grade on their infrastructure. West Virginia earned a D. So did Biden's home state of Delaware. Of the states rated, the highest grade went to Georgia and Utah, which each notched a C-plus. The lowest grade, D-minus, went to the territory of Puerto Rico.

The administration is banking that the data will confirm the everyday experiences of Americans as they bump over potholes, get trapped in traffic jams and wait for buses that almost never correspond to published schedules. There

is already a receptive audience to the sales pitch, and the strategy is that public support can overcome any congressional misgivings.

"We don't have a lot of work to do to persuade the American people that U.S. infrastructure needs major improvement," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said on Fox News Channel's "Fox News Sunday" ahead of the reports' release. "The American people already know it." Republican lawmakers have been quick to reject the infrastructure proposal from Biden. They say just a fraction of the spending goes to traditional infrastructure, as \$400 billion would expand Medicaid support for caregivers

and substantial portions would fund electric vehicle charging stations and address the racial injustice of highways that were built in ways that destroyed Black neighborhoods.

The reports give some data to back up their argument that more money should be spent on roads and bridges. Biden's plan would modernize 20,000 miles (32,187 kilometers) worth of roadways, but California by itself has 14,220 miles (22,885 kilometers) of highway in poor condition.

Republican lawmakers also object to funding the package by increasing the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28% and increasing the global minimum tax, among other tax changes

including stepped-up IRS enforcement being proposed by the Biden administration.

"This is a massive social welfare spending program combined with a massive tax increase on small-business job creators," Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday. "I can't think of a worse thing to do."

Yet the state-by-state reports make clear that many of the people Wicker represents could benefit from the package, an aspect of the Biden effort to engender the backing of voters across party lines.

Wicker was among four Republicans on the White House guest list for Biden's Monday meeting, along with Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska and Reps. Garret Graves of Louisiana and Don Young of Alaska. Democrats on the list were Sens. Maria Cantwell of Washington and Alex Padilla of California and Reps. Donald Payne Jr. of New Jersey and David Price of North Carolina.

Mississippi needs \$4.8 billion for drinking water and \$289 million for schools. Nearly a quarter of households lack an internet subscription, and a similar percentage lives in areas without broadband. Mississippians who use public transportation have to devote an extra 87.7% of their time to commuting.

Mississippi's infrastructure received a grade of D-plus. □

Major training: Biden dog gets help adjusting to White House

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden's dog Major will get professional help adjusting to the White House after a pair of biting incidents last month.

Private training for the 3-year-old German shepherd will be conducted "off-site" — not at the White House but in the Washington area, Michael LaRo-

sa, a spokesperson for Jill Biden, said Monday in an emailed statement. The training is expected to last a few weeks, he said.

The Bidens also have a second German shepherd, 12-year-old Champ, at the White House. But it is the younger canine who has been the source of angst since both dogs were relocated to the White House in January from the Bidens' home in Delaware.

Last month, the White House confirmed that Major had nipped someone during a walk. Shortly before that incident, Major caused what the White House said was a minor injury to a Secret Service employee on March 8.

Both dogs spent time back in Delaware after the first incident — the White House said it was because the first lady would be traveling for a few days — and the pres-



President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden's dogs Champ, right, and Major are seen on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 31, 2021.

Associated Press

ident had said Major was being trained. □

'Skilled predator' FBI boss harassed 8 women, watchdog finds

By **JIM MUSTIAN**

NEW YORK (AP) — One woman carried a ruler at FBI headquarters so she could smack James Hendricks' hands when he reached for her legs and breasts. Another went home shaken after he tugged on her ear and kissed her cheek during a closed-door meeting. And when Hendricks went on to lead the FBI's field office in Albany, New York, in 2018, colleagues described him as a "skilled predator" who leered at women in the workplace, touched them inappropriately and asked one to have sex in a conference room, according to a newly released federal report obtained by The Associated Press.

Hendricks quietly retired last year as a special agent in charge after the Office of Inspector General — the Justice Department's internal watchdog — concluded he sexually harassed eight female subordinates in one of the FBI's most egregious known cases of sexual misconduct.

Hendricks was among several senior FBI officials highlighted in an AP investigation last year that found a pattern of supervisors avoiding discipline — and retiring with full benefits — even after claims of sexual



This Thursday, June 14, 2018, file photo, shows the FBI seal at a news conference at FBI headquarters in Washington.

misconduct against them were substantiated. The FBI said it could not discuss Hendricks' case but that it "maintains a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual harassment and is committed to fostering a safe work environment where all of our employees are valued, protected and respected."

Hendricks, 50, who now writes a law enforcement blog, did not respond to messages seeking comment. He told investigators his accusers had either mis-

interpreted his actions or exaggerated his behavior, and that he was not sexually attracted to them.

"It's an ugly, ugly laundry list of things that were said, and that's really hurtful to me and it really just disappoints me," he was quoted as saying.

The details of Hendricks' sexual harassment — outlined in a 52-page report obtained under the Freedom of Information Act — have not previously been reported. The OIG blacked out Hendricks' name in the

report, but he was identified by law enforcement officials familiar with his case.

Drawing on interviews with more than a dozen FBI officials, the report traces Hendricks' harassment to his time at FBI headquarters, where he served as a section chief in the Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. He was tapped in 2018 to lead the Albany field office, where he supervised more than 200 agents and other FBI employees. Six of his accusers

were in Albany; two were in Washington.

Some colleagues chalked up Hendricks' behavior to his being a "Southern gentleman" — he served as a police officer in western Kentucky before joining the bureau in 1998 — but others said he routinely crossed the line, became "super giddy" around women and was "incapable of stopping himself" from harassing them.

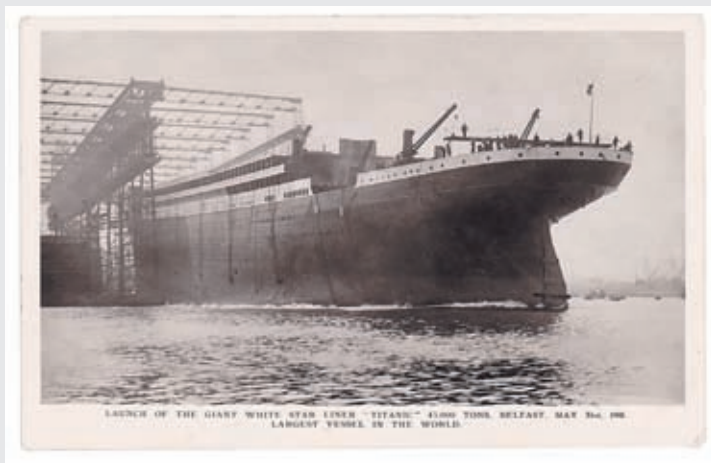
Co-workers told investigators he surrounded himself with a "harem" of attractive women, was fixated on high heels and breasts, and was known for gawking at female agents as they walked down the hallway.

In office conversations that involved women, Hendricks would shift his "body posture and head angle to stare at their breasts and bodies in a manner that was calculated to avoid detection," the OIG report says. Male and female agents alike told investigators they endured this "as a condition of simply interacting with their boss."

Even Hendricks' male colleagues considered him "creepy" and one described how he simulated masturbation once when an attractive woman left the room. □

Associated Press

Postcard from Titanic's radio operator being sold at auction



A photo copy provided by RR Auction of a postcard dated May 31, 1911, shows the Titanic, in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Associated Press

By **MARK PRATT**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A postcard written by the Titanic's senior radio operator just weeks before the ocean

liner sank in the North Atlantic in 1912 has been put up for auction.

The card, with a glossy image of the ill-fated ship on the front, was written by

Jack Phillips to his sister, Elsie Phillips, in March 1912 while awaiting the ship's first sea trials, according to RR Auction in Boston.

"Very busy working late. Hope to leave on Monday & arrive Soton Wednesday afternoon. Hope you quite OK. Heard from Ethel yesterday," he wrote. It's signed "Love Jack."

It is postmarked Belfast, where the Titanic was built, and has a canceled half-penny stamp.

"Soton" is a contraction of Southampton, the English port city from where the Titanic departed on its maiden voyage. It sank in the early morning hours of April 15.

Phillips, who turned 25 on

board, stayed at his post after the Titanic struck an iceberg to send calls for assistance to other ships in the area until water was lapping around his feet, according to RR Auction. He made it off the ship after being told by the captain that he had done his duty, according to his biography in the British National Archives, but died of exposure in the frigid North Atlantic, according to RR Auction.

The postcard is being sold by the estate of Vera and John Gillespie, longtime members of the Massachusetts-based Titanic Historical Society, said Bobby Livingston, executive vice president at RR Auction.

It is expected to sell for around \$15,000 in the Fine Autographs and Artifacts auction that began March 26 and ends Wednesday, the day before the anniversary of the tragedy.

Phillips sent his sister hundreds of postcards during his career, often depicting the ship on which he was serving at the time. But only a handful were connected to the Titanic, Livingston said.

Titanic memorabilia is still popular, more than a century after the disaster, he said.

"It's one of those stories that still resonates around the world, about the hubris of man being taken out by nature," he said. □

Merkel's bloc spars over who will run for German chancellor

By GEIR MOULSON

BERLIN (AP) — The head of Chancellor Angela Merkel's party, Armin Laschet, on Monday rallied his party's leadership behind his bid to become the center-right candidate to be Germany's next leader.

That gave Laschet an initial advantage, but a rival who also has declared his ambition, Markus Soeder, resisted pressure for an immediate decision on who will run for chancellor in the Sept. 26 election, and pointed to his superior poll ratings.

The conservative Union bloc wants to resolve the question after months of shadow-boxing between Laschet, the head of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, and Soeder, who leads its smaller Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union.

Laschet and Soeder — the governors of Germany's two most populous states, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria respectively — both officially declared Sunday that they're prepared to run, but insisted they will find a harmonious solution. They didn't specify how.

Both have advantages



The chairman of the German Christian Democratic Party (CDU), Armin Laschet, left, and the chairman of the German Christian Social Union (CSU), Markus Soeder, right, after a statement following a closed meeting of the federal parliament factions of both parties in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, April 11, 2021.

and disadvantages: Soeder's poll ratings are much stronger, but Laschet is the recently elected leader of by far the bigger party.

"The picture (in the CDU leadership) is clear," the CDU general secretary, Paul Ziemiak, said after a lengthy meeting Monday. "There is a broad majority for Armin Laschet as the

chancellor candidate of the CDU and CSU."

The party stopped short of a formal decision, however.

"Everyone wants a quick decision," Laschet told a news conference. "All the facts are on the table. The problems we have to solve ... are so big that we shouldn't occupy ourselves

any longer with our internal issues." Laschet's support in the CDU is a decisive factor because his party runs in 15 of Germany's 16 states, while the CSU runs only in Bavaria. The CDU's relatively weak local branch in Berlin backed Soeder. Some lawmakers also have backed him in recent weeks. Soeder said Sunday

he is ready to run "if the CDU — which is the bigger sister, that's very clear — supports this broadly." He added that, if the CDU decides otherwise, "we would accept that."

Soeder, 54, said the candidate should be the one with the best chances in the election, in which Merkel isn't seeking a fifth term after 16 years in power. That underlined his strength in polls after cultivating an image as a decisive backer of tough action in the coronavirus pandemic.

Soeder, who won his own party leadership's backing in a separate meeting Monday, signaled afterward that he still hopes for support from CDU lawmakers who worry about their own chances of re-election.

"Polls aren't everything, but they are a ... clear indication of what the population thinks, and we can't uncouple ourselves from the majority of people in our country," he said in Munich. Soeder said there needs to be more discussion on the candidate with more than just top party officials but it shouldn't be an "endless process." He expects a result this week. □

Associated Press

Investigation finds Syria likely behind 2018 chlorine attack

By MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — An investigation by the global chemical weapons watchdog found "reasonable grounds to believe" that a Syrian air force military helicopter

dropped a chlorine cylinder on a Syrian town in 2018, sickening 12 people, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said Monday.

It is the second time that the OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team

has concluded that Syrian government armed forces likely were responsible for a gas attack. Last year, the team also found reasonable grounds to believe that the Syrian Arab Air Force was responsible for attacks using chlorine and the nerve agent sarin in March 2017 in the town of Latamneh.

Syria has repeatedly been accused of using chemical weapons during the country's grinding civil war. The government of President Bashar Assad denies the claims.

In the latest report, the OPCW investigation team said it found evidence that a military helicopter belonging to the Tiger Forces of the Syrian air force dropped at least one chlorine cylinder on the rebel-held northern Syrian town

of Saraqeb on Feb. 4, 2018. "The cylinder ruptured and released chlorine over a large area, affecting 12 named individuals," the watchdog said in a statement.

Those affected all survived, the report said.

As part of the investigation, experts interviewed witnesses, analyzed samples and remnants collected from the town as well as reviewing symptoms reported by casualties and studying satellite imagery and modeling gas dispersion patterns.

The OPCW can't hold individuals criminally responsible for attacks. The report will be shared with the organization's member states and the United Nations.

The report will likely be discussed at a meeting of the

OPCW member states later this month.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, condemned the use of chemical weapons by Syria and said those responsible must be held accountable.

"It is now up to the International Community to duly consider the reports and take appropriate action," Borrell said in a statement. The investigative team was established after Russia blocked the extension of a joint investigation mechanism set up by the U.N. and OPCW in 2015.

That team accused Syria of using chlorine in at least two attacks in 2014 and 2015 and of unleashing sarin in an aerial attack on Khan Sheikhoun in April 2017 that killed about 100 people. □



This Friday May 5, 2017 file photo shows the headquarters of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), The Hague, Netherlands.

Associated Press

Migration activist says Spain, Morocco trying to silence her

By **ARITZ PARRA** and **TARIK EL BARAKAH**

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A renowned Spanish activist for migrants' rights accused authorities in Morocco and Spain on Monday of trying to silence her by barring her from returning to the northern African country where she has worked for two decades.

Helena Maleno, the founder of the Walking Borders group that has been alerting rescuers when boats carrying African migrants fall into distress in the Mediterranean Sea, said she was denied entry to Morocco on Jan. 23 without further explanation.

She also said her 14-year-old daughter was left in Tangier, the northern Moroccan city where the activist relocated in the early 2000s, and that it took them more than a month to reunite in Spain.

The activist said she had waited until now to reveal the January events to protect her family and allow time for authorities to find a solution.

Maleno accused the government in Rabat of



Walking Borders founder and activist Helena Maleno, right, poses for a photo with Spanish actress Alba Flores during a press conference in Madrid, Spain, Monday, April 12, 2021.

Associated Press

launching an administrative offensive against her following a failure of a judicial probe for alleged involvement in human trafficking two years ago.

She also said members of Spain's police who brought charges against her nearly a decade ago were still trying via the country's Interior Ministry to end her activism. "They want us silenced. They don't want us to ex-

plain the murky business that is ongoing at the border and that allows people to die," Maleno told The Associated Press in Madrid.

In a brief written response, Spain's Interior Ministry denied any involvement in Maleno's return to Spain. Boubker Sabik, a spokesman with the Moroccan police directorate, said the Justice Ministry and police in Tangier are gathering

more information about the activist's case before they can reveal details to the media.

Mustapha Ramid, the Moroccan minister in charge of Human Rights, denied any knowledge of Maleno's situation.

The activist said harassment didn't stop after a court in Tangier dropped her case in 2019, following a two-year judicial probe based

on reports by Spain's National Police that accused Maleno of links with human trafficking gangs.

The Spanish police report had been rejected in 2012 by prosecutors at Spain's National Court.

The family has been subjected to police roundups, tapped phones, home searches and overall close scrutiny, Maleno said. Despite numerous appeals to Moroccan authorities, she had also been denied a new residence permit after the renewal was rejected in 2018, when the judicial probe against her was still open.

Since then, the activist said she had been coming in and out of the country every three months until, on Jan. 23, Moroccan police agents waited for her at the Tangier airport. She said the airline crew forced her to remain on the plane that took her to Barcelona, where Spanish police awaited her and processed a Moroccan deportation order.

Maleno said neither Morocco nor Spain had explained the reasons for her entry rejection. □

Lebanon extends area claimed in border dispute with Israel

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's outgoing minister of public works said Monday that he has signed a decree that would increase the area claimed by the Mediterranean country in

a maritime border dispute with Israel.

Public Works Minister Michel Najjar told reporters that he has signed an amendment of the decree that would formally

extend Lebanon's claims by 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles). The unilateral move by Lebanon is likely to anger Israel and the U.S. who are not expected to recognize Beirut's extension of the disputed area.

Lebanon and Israel began indirect talks with U.S. mediation in October to reach a deal over the disputed area that is believed to be rich with oil and natural gas deposits. The meetings that stopped few weeks later were being held at a U.N. post along the border of the two nations that remain technically in a state of war.

The negotiations were the first non-security talks to be held between the two countries, which have no diplomatic relations fol-

lowing decades of conflict. Resolving the border issue could pave the way for lucrative oil and gas deals on both sides.

In late October, the Lebanese delegation to the talks — a mix of army generals and professionals — offered a new map that pushes for an additional 1,430 square kilometers (550 square miles).

This area is to be included in Lebanese territory on top of the already disputed 860 square kilometer- (330 square mile-) area of the Mediterranean Sea that each side claims is within their own exclusive economic zones.

Najjar said, however, that the decree still required the signatures of the defense minister, prime minister and president to go into effect.

The announcement came as U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale was expected in Lebanon later this week to meet Lebanese officials.

Lebanon is passing through its worst economic and financial crisis in its modern history and had plans to start drilling in search for oil and gas in the disputed area this year.

Israel has already developed offshore natural gas rigs, producing enough for domestic consumption and export abroad. Lebanon hopes that its own oil and gas discoveries will help alleviate its long-running economic troubles. It was not immediately how the U.S. and Israel would respond to the Lebanese decision. □



In this Oct. 14, 2020 file photo, a helicopter flies over a base of the U.N. peacekeeping force, where U.S.-mediated talks were held over a disputed maritime border between Israel and Lebanon, in the southern town of Naqoura, Lebanon.

Associated Press

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'Huge' explosion rocks St. Vincent as volcano keeps erupting

By KRISTIN DEANE and DÁNICA COTO
 Associated Press

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (AP) — La Soufriere volcano fired an enormous amount of ash and hot gas early Monday in the biggest explosive eruption yet since volcanic activity began on the eastern Caribbean island of St. Vincent late last week, with officials worried about the lives of those who have refused to evacuate.

Experts called it a "huge explosion" that generated pyroclastic flows down the volcano's south and southwest flanks.

"It's destroying everything in its path," Erouscilla Joseph, director of the University of the West Indies'



This Planet Labs Inc. satellite photo shows the moments following an eruption of La Soufriere volcano in the Caribbean island of St. Vincent, Friday, April 9, 2021.

Seismic Research Center, told The Associated Press. "Anybody who would have not heeded the evacuation, they need to get out immediately."

There were no immedi-

ate reports of injuries or death, but government officials were scrambling to respond to the latest eruption, which was even bigger than the first eruption that occurred Friday

morning. Roughly 16,000 people who live in communities close to the volcano had been evacuated under government orders on Thursday, but an unknown number have remained behind and refused to

move. Richard Robertson, with the seismic research center, told local station NBC Radio that the volcano's old and new dome have been destroyed and that a new crater has been created. He said that the pyroclastic flows would have razed everything in their way. "Anything that was there, man, animal, anything... they are gone," he said. "And it's a terrible thing to say it."

Joseph said the latest explosion is equivalent to the one that occurred in 1902 and killed some 1,600. The volcano last erupted in 1979.

Ash from the ongoing explosions has fallen on Barbados and other nearby islands.

Associated Press

Dubai parts with curtain covers for restaurants in Ramadan

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Dubai is parting with a longstanding requirement that restaurants be covered by curtains in the daytime during Ramadan to shield the sight of food from people fasting.

The move, announced Sunday by the city-state's Economic Development Department, is the latest change aimed at boosting tourism in the autocratically ruled Muslim nation. "Restaurants will be al-

lowed to serve customers without putting in place curtains, dividers or facades as has been the mandatory practice previously," the state-run WAM news agency said. "The new circular replaces circulars issued in previous years that have required restaurants to block dining areas from the sight of those who are fasting."

The new rules also don't require restaurants to obtain special permits to serve food during sunlight hours as well.

During Ramadan, Muslims observing the holy month abstain from food and drink — even water — during the day. Muslims traditionally break the day-long Ramadan fast with their first sips of water and their evening meal, called iftar.



In this Saturday, June 28, 2014, file photo, people walk inside a shopping mall with Ramadan decorations as they prepare for the holy month of Ramadan in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Associated Press



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The recommendation for those who already had COVID-19 is to get just one dose of the vaccine

ORANJESTAD - The world is learning more every day about the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. Aruba's Department of Public Health is following how all Continuous research is carried out and policy on prevention or vaccination is adjusted on the basis of the results.

Recently a recommendation has been published on the vaccination of persons who have been in contact with the SARS-CoV-2 virus and have recovered from it. As is known, the body of persons who have become infected with the COVID-19 virus and have recovered at some point reacts and makes antibodies against the virus, to the point where a person recovers. COVID-19 test result as is the case with other viral diseases, the person is protected for a while. The question is for how long? The scientists don't have a concrete answer yet, but based on their research, they are sure that the protection will last for 6 months. This is the reason for the change in vaccination policy for those who received and recovered COVID-19.

The recommendation for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 6 months is to get only one vaccination dose as a booster to keep their immune system high. Studies show that the antibodies of people who received a vaccine after they received COVID-19 increase dramatically again, more than in a person who had never been infected with COVID-19 and received their first dose of vaccine. Therefore, this recommendation is only for people who can demonstrate by a positive COVID-19 test that they have had COVID-19. This recommendation does not apply to people who think they have already had COVID-19 or to people suffering from immune deficiency disorders. The individuals who should receive their two doses of vaccine are those who have not received COVID-19, have tested COVID-19 positive for COVID-19 more than 6 months ago, or have the following diseases or health conditions:

- Patients with a malignant tumor diagnosis within the past 5 years



- Patients with chronic kidney disease (patient on dialysis or receiving a transplant)
- Patient who has undergone an organ, stem cell or bone marrow transplant
- Patient with a primary immunodeficiency disorder (PID)

Studies are underway on the immunological response of patients with these health conditions after receiving the vaccine. If necessary, policy can be changed after the results of these studies are known. □

Aruba to me..... is Breathtaking!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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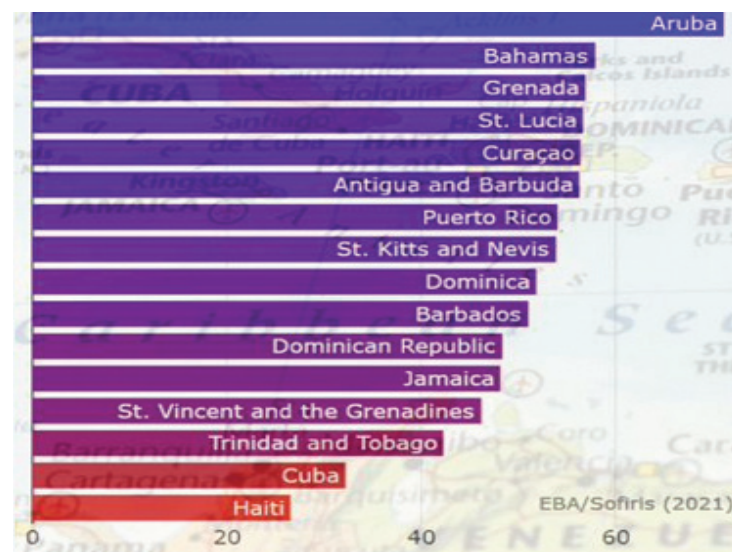


For today we received amazing pictures from **Joseph Delgrosso**, who came to visit Aruba for the first time, together with his wife **Nelly Delgrosso** and their son **Lucas**.

He wrote:

"My name is Joseph Delgrosso. We are from Staten Island New York. My 11 year-old son Lucas was our photographer. He took all the beautiful pictures, but what helped, was the amazing background. We stayed at Divi all inclusive. We rented a car and I look up at top 15 places to visit in Aruba. Our top places were Hooiberg mountain, the California Light house and Gold Mill Ruins. I can't describe with words what I felt when I was at the Gold mill Ruins. Wow what a view. At the top of Hooiberg mountain I felt like I was in heaven. After visiting Aruba I can't stop smiling. It was the best vacation I had so far." □

Aruba is the island with the best investment climate in the Caribbean



ORANJESTAD - The Amsterdam Economic Bureau in collaboration with Sofiris published that Aruba has the best investment climate in the Caribbean.

Graph Economics Bureau Amsterdam and Sofiris of Aruba investment climate islands in the Caribbean (Caribbean Investment Climate Index) .Aruba has the best investment climate in the Caribbean. The openness of the economy, the level of prosperity and the strength of the institutions in particular have contributed to the Caribbean Investment Climate Index (CICI) 's high score of 71.1 among the countries in the region. This is an index for the Caribbean region that measures the attractiveness of the investment climate: the Caribbean Investment Climate Index (CICI). Countries also included in the ranking include: Bahamas, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Curacao, Antigua, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Saint Kits & Nevis, Dominica, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Vincent & Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago , Cuba, and Haiti.

Curaçao is in fifth place with a score of 56.3, while Haiti is in last place with 26.5. □

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The Kitchen Table enters sixth year of gastronomic success on NEW location: A very fine culinary journey of Caribbean and Peruvian fusion cuisine

EAGLE BEACH — The Kitchen Table is an elegant, classy, intimate, high-quality restaurant with an exceptional dining set-up. Dining here is an experience, a kind of sitting- at your- best- friend's or family's kitchen table where you feel and taste that the food contains love. Are you looking for something different, an ecstatic foody trip, than this is where you need to go.

The 7-8 course gastronomic journey will start with sparkling wine at the patio of The Kitchen Table's new location at Paradise Beach Villas as of 6.45PM. Around 7.00PM guests will be guided for a memorable dinner on the second floor of the other popular restaurant Asi Es Mi Peru. The dining concept reflects extraordinary, elegant and exquisite dishes from the Caribbean, Peruvian fusion and international cuisine created by the owners, Chef David Lizano and his team. To pair the perfect wines three sommeliers were invited to make the selection.

The interior of the restaurant is if you were in an elegant establishment in Lima, the capital city of Peru. You feel elevated in the top of the building where dinner takes place in an intimate setting. The typical, colorful Peruvian fabrics dress the ceiling while the large windows dignify the room. There are only 16 seats available creating an intimacy underlined by the owner's personal attention. "This is an amazing experience," says Robert J. Giordanella from New York. "The food is truly divine," shares a local guest. An evening at The Kitchen Table will be noted as unforgettable in your book of vacation memories, as it stands out from the regular island dinners.

It is all about consistency

The Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas and her husband Jan van Nes are the secret formula behind The Kitchen Table's success. The couple takes a personal approach to what they do, this is not about running a business as usual. This is more about making you feel welcomed home, as well as being pampered. They bring top hospitality, experience and authenticity to the table. Within this gourmet dinner concept the two blended the Peruvian culinary art of Roxanna's top kitchen team and Jan's expertise from The Kitchen Table. The result is one big trip of delight, indulge and tickling of your taste buds. The Kitchen Table welcomes you with open arms every Tuesday to Saturday.

Peruvian touch

In the last ten years, Peru has been recognized as one of the world's best culinary destinations, and for seven consecutive years, the South American country has won the award for the Best Culinary destination at the Worlds Travel Awards. Biodiversity combined multiculturalism are the reasons why Peru is so rich in gastronomy. You can travel through the last 500 years, touch a mix of cultures whenever you taste authentic Peruvian cuisine. The Kitchen Table



brings this epicurean delicacies to Aruba paired perfectly with the best wines and they will make you understand why Peru is at the height of today's gastronomy.

The Kitchen Table is open from Tuesday to Saturday. Have a peak on their website www.thekitchentableinaruba.com or call them at +297-280 7117. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels

Musical Instruments

Episode C - 100

ORANJESTAD — We want to start this 100th episode by thanking and celebrating the opportunity that Aruba Today has given Etnia Nativa to transmit and share culture through our weekly space and as in any celebration there are musical instruments, today we want to share with you our dear followers and tell you regarding one special music instrument that occupies a special place: "Charango".

We know that healing through sound dates back thousands of years and those music remediated illnesses and revived the spirit since sound is a vibration and everything in life is made up of vibrating atoms. Depending on the instrument we listen to, we can be influenced at the cellular level by the transmitted vibrations. Some instruments help us move from what are known as "beta brain wave patterns", or those associated with concentration, anxiety and struggle, to calmer frequencies known as "Brain waves associated with relaxation (Alpha), meditation (Theta) and trance-like states (Delta).

Let's go back to our beloved charango!

When the Spanish conquistadors came to South America, they brought the vihuela (an ancestor of the classical guitar) with them. The charango may have evolved from the vihuela, bandurria (mandolin), or the lute. Experts "charanguistas", have noted characteristics of the charango in various vihuelas and guitars of the 16th century, and maintains that the charango is the direct descendant of the vihuela.

The charango originated from the Quechua and Aymara peoples, but only after the Spanish introduced stringed instruments. The charango was traditionally made with



dried armadillo shells better known as quirquincho (a very common animal in the Andes Mountains) for the backs and wood as front cover for the sound box. Even though the charango is traditionally made with the armadillo shell, today it is also common to made charango's completely out of wood. The charango traditionally is used and played in Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, and Peru. The charango is 66cms (22 inches) long and is usually made from wood and the shell of an armadillo. The charango typically has 10 strings (5 sets of 2 strings strung very close together) but can have up to 20 strings. The first story says that the native peoples loved the sound of the Vihuela (an ancestor of the classic guitar). However, they lacked the knowledge and technology to make the vihuela. So they made it with what they had available (armadillo

shells). Another story says that the Spaniards prohibited natives from practicing their ancestral music, and that the charango was a successful attempt to make a lute that could be easily hidden under a garment such as a poncho. It's believed the charango came into its present form in the early 18th century in the city of Potosí in the Royal Audiencia of Charcas part of the Viceroyalty of Peru (in what is present-day Bolivia), probably from Amerindian contact with Spanish settlers. Because the modern countries of Peru and Bolivia had not yet been established at the time, it is difficult to trace the charango's origin to a specific country, and the issue remains highly debated.

The first published historic information on the charango may be that gathered by Vega, going back to 1814, when a cleric from Tupiza documented that "the Indians used with much enthusiasm the guitarrillos mui fuis... around here in the Andes of Bolivia they called them Charangos". Curious of the Latin America History is when in 1973 Chilean the top military organized a meeting with folk musicians where it was explained that the traditional instruments charango and quena were now banned and totally prohibit. □



To get to know a little more regarding Aruba's and its cultural origins we highly recommend you to book your participation in our cultural encounter session.

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Time to party? Events industry still uncertain about COVID

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

NEW YORK (AP) — Although weddings and other big celebrations are going back on the calendar in the U.S., business owners who make those events happen expect a slow recovery from the impact of COVID-19.

Lauren Schaefer is getting more inquiries about her wedding coordination services now that President Joe Biden has sped up the timetable for all adults to be eligible for vaccinations. Schaefer's company, The Get Together Events Co., does business in New York, Chicago and Nashville and has booked 60 weddings for this year, close to the 69 she did in 2019.

But Schaefer still sees a lot of caution; couples whose dream is to have a big wedding aren't sure about booking a date amid continuing restrictions on the size of gatherings in many parts of the country. Some state and local governments also have limits on wedding traditions like cocktail hours and dance floors.

"I tell clients, if you feel comfortable having a wedding under today's restrictions, let's move forward hopefully things will get better from there," Schaefer says.

Even as inquiries and bookings pick up, uncertainty hangs over event planners, caterers and other businesses involved in putting on events. It's not just government restrictions — many people are still uneasy about large gatherings.

Many of the new bookings at catering halls and other events spaces are for the end of this year and 2022. These businesses may already have a full calendar for the late spring and summer because weddings and other celebrations were postponed from 2020, but with restrictions on the size of gatherings still on the books in many states, the near future remains uncertain.

"The next few months are still a little vague on events. We have a very slight handful in April and May and



In this photo provided by Gilded Social, a bridal shop in Columbus, Ohio, owner Tanya Rutner Hartman helps customer Cristin Lee try on a gown at the shop on April 2, 2021.

Associated Press

although the restrictions have been lifted, clients need time to plan," says Nick Cascio, co-owner of Giorgio's, an event space in Baiting Hollow, New York, on Long Island's East End. Weddings in New York can now have up to 150 people since the state government raised the limit from 50 last month.

Giorgio's did have 20 weddings with under 50 guests after the pandemic began last year, but that was far below its 500-guest capacity. It has about 150 weddings a year, typically with 200 guests. But Cascio says he's optimistic that with more people being vaccinated and the infection rate lower, his business will eventually return to normal. It's gotten about 60 bookings since the start of the year.

As interest in weddings and parties has picked up at 42 North, a planning firm based in Ipswich, Massachusetts, co-owner Francie Dorman finds the pandemic is as much a consideration as food, flowers and music. In some venues, the number of guests at a table is limited to six instead of the usual eight or 10. There may be no bar service in

many areas, and the usual cocktail hour where people mingle may need to be a sit-down affair.

"We have to be prepared for many different scenarios going into this spring, summer and fall. Our messaging to clients has been, prepare for the worst, but always hope for the best," Dorman says.

Dorman's company began getting a pickup in inquiries and bookings around Jan. 20, the day Biden took office. She's optimistic that business will continue to improve, although coronavirus experts including Dr. Anthony Fauci warn that another surge is possible.

"A lot of us are just a little too scarred to say, no way it could surge again," Dorman says. "It may cause some older guests who are less comfortable from attending. But I'm hopeful we won't be shut down again." The events industry has also shrunk amid the pandemic — government-ordered shutdowns and restrictions forced some events-related companies out of business, among them venues, flower shops and bridal gown manufacturers. Auction websites are selling banquet tables, chairs and

other items, either from venues or rental companies that have failed. While it's not known how many of these companies have shut down, their loss can mean fewer options for people putting on events.

Heidi Hiller, a planner for corporate events as well as weddings and other celebrations, is concerned about the loss of people with lighting and other technical expertise who have found other work during the pandemic.

"Many of our suppliers have had to downsize their staffs significantly and it will take some time to retrain and ramp up," says Hiller, owner of Innovative Party Planners, based in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Hiller generally hasn't seen companies and organizations ready to commit — or even plan events. Many are still trying to determine when and how to bring their employees back to their offices. The events Hiller is working on tend to be hybrids of in-person and virtual; the 60 virtual events like weddings and bar mitzvahs she put together in the second half of 2020 helped keep her company in business.

So far, it's hard to predict what's ahead. "All in the same week I had a cancellation for a Labor Day weekend live social event — and another client planning to move forward for a bat mitzvah with 150 people," Hiller says.

Business at Tanya Rutner Hartman's bridal shop, Gilded Social, in Columbus, Ohio, is still down more than a third even as more brides plan weddings. Brides whose weddings went on hold last year already have their gowns, and those shopping for later this year or 2022 aren't planning big weddings with 10 bridesmaids. Hartman is selling fewer dresses.

Moreover, Hartman sees a shift in how couples feel about weddings, a change that can affect other businesses in the events industry as well. For instance, while before the pandemic it was a priority to have unique wedding pictures that got a lot of notice on social media, now brides are more interested in a wedding that is more meaningful, Hartman says. Hartman doesn't expect to see her business return to pre-pandemic levels until next year, when the backlog of weddings has been worked through.

Smaller events mean less revenue for people like photographers who are paid by the hour. Anji and Pete Martin are seeing an uptick in inquiries and bookings, but demand for full-size weddings has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. Smaller weddings they've photographed with 25 guests have been much shorter than typical pre-pandemic weddings, many of which had 150 to 200 guests and lasted four or five hours.

The Martins, who are based in Washington, D.C., are seeing a mix of bookings — people who are cautious and want a smaller affair, and those who still want that lavish event.

"They're saying, OK, we wanted to have a big wedding and we're going to go ahead with it," Anji Martin says. □

Study: Facebook delivers biased job ads, skewed by gender

By **MATT O'BRIEN** and **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writers

Facebook is showing different job ads to women and men in a way that might run afoul of anti-discrimination laws, according to a new study.

University of Southern California researchers who examined the ad-delivery algorithms of Facebook and LinkedIn found that Facebook's were skewed by gender beyond what can be legally justified by differences in job qualifications. Men were more likely to see Domino's pizza delivery driver job ads on Facebook, while women were more likely to see Instacart shopper ads.

The trend also held in higher-paying engineering jobs at tech firms like Netflix and chipmaker Nvidia. A higher fraction of women saw the Netflix ads than the Nvidia ads, which parallels the gender breakdown in each company's workforce.

No evidence was found of similar bias in the job ads delivered by LinkedIn.

Study author Aleksandra Korolova, an assistant professor of computer science at USC, said it might be that



This July 30, 2019 photo shows an update information of Facebook application on a mobile phone displayed at a store in Chicago.

Associated Press

LinkedIn is doing a better job at deliberately tamping down bias, or it might be that Facebook is simply better at picking up real-world cues from its users about gender imbalances and perpetuating them.

"It's not that the user is saying, 'Oh, I'm interested in this.' Facebook has decided on behalf of the user whether they are likely to engage," she said. "And

just because historically a certain group wasn't interested in engaging in something, doesn't mean they shouldn't have an opportunity to pursue it, especially in the job category."

Facebook said in a statement Friday it has been taking meaningful steps to address issues of discrimination in ads.

"Our system takes into account many signals to try

and serve people ads they will be most interested in, but we understand the concerns raised in the report," it said.

Facebook promised to overhaul its ad targeting system in 2019 as part of a legal settlement.

The social network said then it would no longer allow housing, employment or credit ads that target people by age, gender

or zip code. It also limited other targeting options so these ads don't exclude people on the basis of race, ethnicity and other legally protected categories in the U.S., including national origin and sexual orientation.

Endlessly customizable ad targeting is Facebook's bread and butter, so any limits placed on its process could hurt the company's revenue. The ads users see can be tailored down to the most granular details not just where people live and what websites they visited recently, but whether they've gotten engaged in the past six months or share characteristics with people who have recently bought new sneakers, even if they have never expressed interest in doing so themselves.

But even if advertisers can't do the targeting themselves, the study shows what critics have stressed for years -- that Facebook's own algorithms can discriminate, even if there is no intent from the job advertisers themselves. "We haven't seen any public evidence that they are working on the issues related to their algorithms creating discrimination," Korolova said. □

Drivers wanted: Record demand at Uber as vaccinations rise

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**

Uber is offering sign-up bonuses and other incentives for drivers as it faces record demand for rides and meal delivery.

The San Francisco ride-hailing company said Monday that total monthly bookings, including food delivery and passenger service, reached an all-time high in March.

In a government filing, the company said demand for ride-hailing, which plunged during coronavirus lockdowns last year, has recovered more quickly than expected as daily COVID-19 vaccinations exceed 3 million per day in the U.S.

Some people are still avoiding public transportation out of infection fears, potentially boosting demand for services like

Uber and Lyft further.

Passenger bookings last month reached the highest level since last March, when spiking infection rates began to shut the country down. Bookings last month hit an annual run rate of \$30 billion. Last year, Uber's passenger business recorded \$26.4 billion in gross bookings.

Food delivery, of course, has surged over the past year and in March Uber Eats deliveries hit an all-time high. With more regions opening restaurants to at least partial capacity, that could be a positive sign for Uber as it could signal that some habits acquired during the pandemic may stick.

Food delivery jumped 150% from last March to an annualized run rate of \$52

billion, the company said.

Last week, Uber announced \$250 million in sign-up bonuses and other perks to lure more drivers. Many drivers gave up last year when demand dried up, the company said. But demand now exceeds the supply of Uber drivers on call, the company said.

In another perk, Uber has partnered with Walgreens to make it easier for drivers to get vaccinated.

Driving professionally, however, may still be considered too risky by some. Last month, a woman was arrested on suspicion of pepper-spraying an Uber driver in San Francisco who was coughed at and insulted after he demanded a passenger wear a mask. Drivers may still be holding out to see if Uber will

sweeten pay and benefits.

Uber was forced to classify its drivers in the United Kingdom as workers last month -- not self-employed -- after a Supreme Court ruling there.

The company said Monday it has begun a historical claims settlement for its U.K. drivers.

Shares of Uber Technologies Inc. rose nearly 5% to \$60.40 Monday. □



Travelers, Kerri Ann Salomon, left, and a friend arriving from New York City, look for an Uber ride at Los Angeles International Airport, in this Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020, file photo. Associated Press

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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		6		9		4		
8			7	2				5
			3		4			
		5				7	9	
1	7			3			5	6
	8	4				2		
			9		1			
6				4	8			1
		1		6		9		

Difficulty Level ★★ 4/13

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Editor
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Assistant Director
 Xiomara Arends

Editors
 Liza Koolman (Management assistant)
 Richard Brooks
 Linda Reijnders

Sales
 Linda Reijnders
 (linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Juan Luis Pinto
 Pilar Flores

Columnists
 Anthony Croes
 Joris Zantvoort
 Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @arubatoday

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Versatile Tom Riley tackles sci-fi fantasy in 'The Nevers'

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Pattinson — that A-list international heartthrob — may owe a little thanks to rising star Tom Riley.

It was Riley who replaced Pattinson at the last minute in a 2005 stage production of "The Woman Before" at London's Royal Court Theatre. The change was made so late that programs and announcements to the press had been made before the switch.

"By the time the reviews came out, they were saying lovely things about newcomer Robert Pattinson," says the British actor. "But it was me."

Pattinson used the positive reviews to help fuel his rise to "Twilight" fame. Riley, who went on to star on Broadway, TV and films, has no hard feelings.

"I would have done exactly the same thing," says Riley, laughing, and adds with his tongue firmly in his cheek: "And as a result of that, his career crashed and burned. So what can I say?" Riley's career is humming along nicely and he takes another step into the spotlight this month in "The Nevers," a gender-bending sci-fi fantasy series on HBO created by Joss Whedon. Set in England in the 1890s, the show centers on a



This image released by HBO shows Tom Riley, left, and James Norton in a scene from "The Nevers."

group of people who have mysteriously been imbued with distinct superpowers. Some can see the future, some grow 10-foot-tall, others can harness electricity. These people the Victorians refer to them as "touched" are a threat to the status quo. There is much fighting, cool special effects and social commentary a sort of Victorian X-Men.

"It does defy definition and description in so many ways," says Riley from his home in Los Angeles. "It just felt like something fresh and

new. It made me realize just how long I've been without something like that."

In the series, Riley plays Augie, a rather stiff member of the aristocracy who also happens to have been "touched." His superpower is the ability to channel birds, a useful skill for reconnaissance.

"I think I could probably say this here in a way that makes more sense if I said it at home: He's incredibly British in that everything is repressed and everything is tricky and difficult for him,"

he says.

Co-executive producer Daniel Kaminsky says Riley brings sincerity and warmth to the role that elevates Augie's occasional antics and makes him a very real and interesting character.

"A few of us had seen Tom's earlier work and had only thought of him as a leading man, but when he auditioned for the more eccentric Augie it blew us all away — he was able to bring more to the character than what was on the page," says Kaminsky. "He

was a natural fit to our fantastic ensemble."

Whedon, responsible for "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Angel" and "Firefly" on the small screen and who directed the first two Marvel "Avengers" movies, has since left the series and been accused by actors on other projects of being abusive.

The first six episodes of "The Nevers" are done and start airing weekly on Sunday. The cast is due to return in June to finish the first season with British screenwriter Philippa Goslett taking over as showrunner.

So secretive is the project that Riley has no idea what happens to his character. All he knows is that the world created for him is complex and with powerful themes. "Yes, mutants have powers and they're shunned from society and exploited. But has its eye on a bigger prize as it progresses," he says. "It's bolder than that."

☆t's more ambitious." Riley isn't dawdling during the lull. He's calling from the set of the Netflix eight-part series "The Woman of the House" with Kristen Bell. The precautions about COVID-19 have made filming odd, particularly the masks. □

Associated Press

Will Smith film departs Georgia over voting restrictions

NEW YORK (AP) — Will Smith and director Antoine Fuqua have pulled production of their runaway slave drama "Emancipation" from Georgia over the state's recently enacted law restricting voting access.

The film is the largest and most high profile Hollywood production to depart the state since Georgia's Republican-controlled state Legislature passed a law that introduced stiffer voter identification requirements for absentee balloting, limited drop boxes and gave the State Election Board new powers to intervene in county election offices and to remove and replace local election

officials. Opponents have said the law is designed to reduce the impact of minority voters.

In a joint statement, Smith and Fuqua — who are both producers on the project — said they felt compelled

to move the production out of Georgia. "We cannot in good conscience provide economic support to a government that enacts regressive voting laws that are designed to restrict voter access," Smith and Fuqua said. "The new Georgia voting laws are reminiscent of voting impediments that were passed at the end of Reconstruction to prevent many Americans from voting."

"Emancipation" had been scheduled to begin shooting in June. Apple Studios acquired the film last year in a deal reportedly worth \$130 million. Based on a true story, the film stars Smith as a slave who flees

a Louisiana plantation and joins the Union Army.

Hollywood's response to the Georgia law has been closely watched because the state is a major hub of film production and boasts generous tax incentives. Some filmmakers have said they would boycott, including "Ford v. Ferrari" director James Mangold. □



Will Smith attends the premiere of "Gemini Man" in Los Angeles on Oct. 6, 2019, left, and director Antoine Fuqua appears during a photo session in Los Angeles on July 12, 2015.

Associated Press

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8	4	9	7	2	6	1	3	5
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1	7	2	4	3	9	8	5	6
9	8	4	6	5	7	2	1	3
4	5	8	9	7	1	3	6	2
6	9	3	2	4	8	5	7	1
7	2	1	5	6	3	9	4	8

Masters is a win for Hideki Matsuyama, and for Japan

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The question became inevitable at some of the bigger golf tournaments, whether it was for Jordan Spieth or Tiger Woods. And it had nothing to do with them. Japanese reporters, having quietly rehearsed the words in English, wanted to know what the best players thought of Hideki Matsuyama.

This wasn't about validation. Everyone knew he could play.

Matsuyama was still in college when he won his first professional event. He made the cut at the Masters as a 19-year-old amateur. He won the Japan Golf Tour money title as a rookie. When he played in the Presidents Cup at age 21, he had more wins that year than anyone on his team.

This was about acceptance.

The ultimate validation came on a Sunday at the Masters that neither Matsuyama nor his golf-crazed nation will ever forget.

Matsuyama had a four-shot lead that was whittled to one when he walked off the first green. His six-



Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, puts on the champion's green jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament as Dustin Johnson watches on Sunday, April 11, 2021, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

shot lead in the middle of Amen Corner was down to two shots when he stepped onto the 16th tee. But he held steady to the end, leading to a monumental occasion in fabled Butler Cabin.

That's when Fred Ridley, the Masters chairman, turned to defending champion

Dustin Johnson and said, "We'd be honored if you'd place the green jacket on our newest champion, Hideki Matsuyama."

"I'm really happy," Matsuyama said, significant because they were the only words he spoke without his interpreter.

All of Japan had reason to

celebrate.

The week at Augusta National began with 17-year-old Tsubasa Kajitani winning the Augusta National Women's Amateur. Nine days later, Japan had its first male winner of a major championship, which feels certain to have a lasting effect.

Adam Scott can attest to that.

One of his endorsement contracts take him to the Japan Open, and he has seen the popularity of the game and the passion for its stars. He played alongside Matsuyama and Ryo Ishikawa, the first Japanese star of this generation. Scott had not felt that ignored since he played with Woods and Phil Mickelson in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

"He's a bit like a Tiger Woods to the rest of the world," he said of Matsuyama, who went on to win that week.

Now picture Matsuyama in a green jacket.

"I can't imagine what it's going to be like," Matsuyama said, this time through his interpreter.

"But what a thrill and honor it will be for me to take the green jacket back to Japan. And I'm really looking forward to it."

Now try to picture the reception at Kasamigaseki Country Club, the site of the Olympics in about three months. They have been delayed a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and assuming the games go on, the timing couldn't be better for golf. □

Federal judge approves partial deal between women, U.S. Soccer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A federal judge approved a partial deal between players on the women's national team and the U.S. Soccer Federation over unequal working conditions.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner approved the Dec. 1 settlement during a hearing Monday. The deal calls for charter flights, hotel accommodations, venue selection and professional staff support equitable to that of the men's national team.

Players sued the USSF in March 2019, contending they have not been paid equitably under their collective bargaining agreement that runs through December 2021, compared to what the men's team

receives under its agreement that expired in December 2018. The women asked for more than \$66 million in damages under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Klausner dismissed the pay claim last May, ruling the women rejected a pay-to-play structure similar to the one in the men's agreement and accepted greater base salaries and benefits than the men, who failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"We are pleased that the court has approved the equal working conditions that the USWNT players have fought for many years to achieve," players spokeswoman Molly Levinson said in a statement.

"Finally, giving these athletes access to facilities, training, care and professional support is the next step needed in the long and hard work to grow the game of women's football."

The USSF did not immediately comment on Klausner's approval.

Klausner's approval of the settlement allows the players to ask the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn his decision on unequal pay.

"We intend to appeal the court's equal pay decision, which does not account for the fact that women players have been paid at lesser rates than men who do the same job," Levinson said.

"We are committed



USA's Alex Morgan looks on, after the women's international friendly soccer match between Sweden and USA at Friends Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Associated Press

as ever to our work to achieve the equal pay that we legally deserve and our focus is on the future and ensuring we

leave the game a better place for the next generation of women who will play for this team and our country." □

Speed demon: New closer Clase bringing the heat for Indians

By **TOM WITHERS**
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Seconds after the ball leaves Emmanuel Clase's hand and streaks toward home plate, the eyes of everyone in Progressive Field quickly turn to the ballpark's video scoreboard to see what pitch he threw and how fast it went.

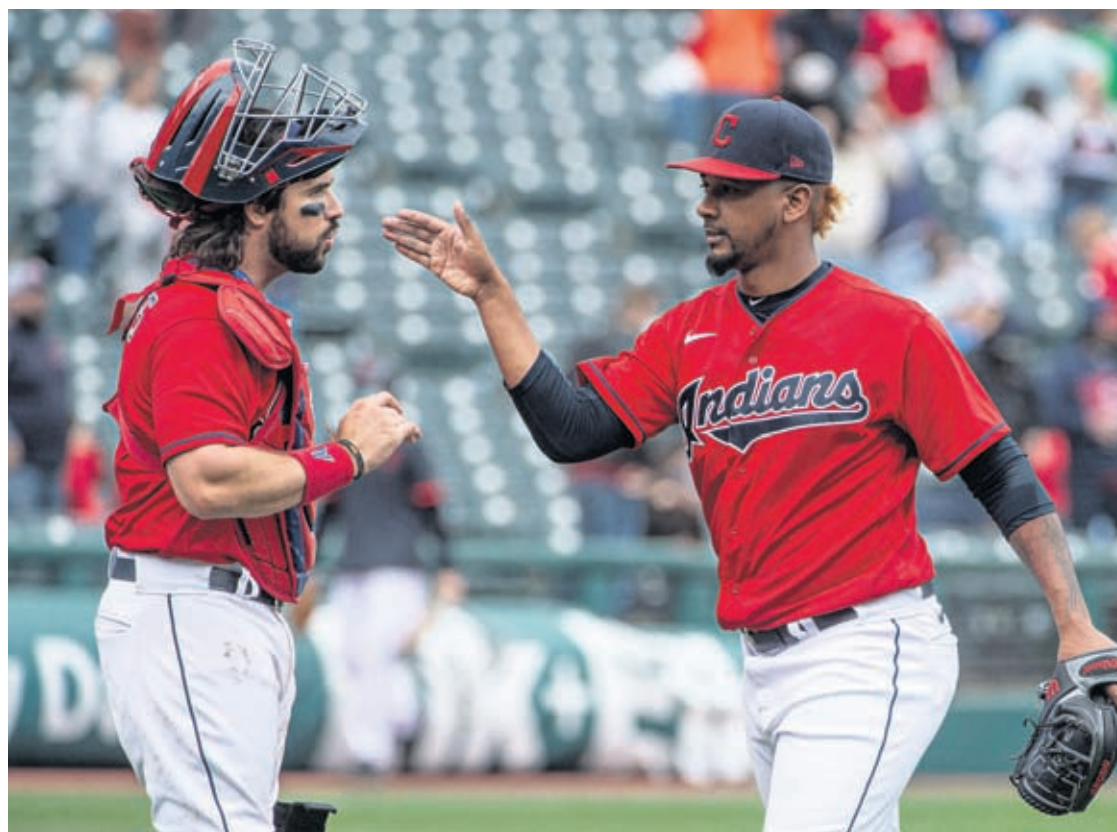
101 mph cutter. 100 mph fastball. 91 mph slider.

"It's unfair," Indians starter Logan Allen said after watching Clase mow down the Detroit Tigers on Sunday. "It definitely makes you think: How do people hit him?"

Eight games into a new season, the Indians, who began 2021 with uncertainty in the back end of their bullpen, may have something special in Clase, a harder-than-hard-throwing right-hander from the Dominican Republic who arrived in a 2019 trade from Texas and missed last season due to a drug suspension.

Clase (pronounced clas-AY) announced his arrival last week when his first pitch for the Indians registered at 101.3 mph — the fastest thrown by a Cleveland pitcher since the speed began being tracked regularly in 2008.

Since then, he has unleashed 35 more pitches over 100 mph, the most in the majors this season and



Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Emmanuel Clase is greeted by Austin Hedges after they defeated the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game in Cleveland, Sunday, April 11, 2021.

Associated Press

more than all Indians pitchers combined over the past 13 years.

"I mean, he's got a slider that's faster than most people's fastballs," Indians reliever Bryan Shaw said. "He's obviously stupidly good. He's got a really good arm. He's got command of his pitches, obviously."

And that may be the most impressive thing about Clase, who in addition to throwing the ball hard, throws it accurately.

He's the anti-"Wild Thing." When using advanced

baseball analytics, Clase's whiff and chase rates are above the 94th percentile. By more traditional statistics, he has allowed one hit in four innings with six strikeouts. After giving up a one-out single in the ninth Sunday, Clase induced a game-ending double play for his second save to complete Cleveland's three-game sweep.

Manager Terry Francona hasn't formally named Clase his closer.

It goes without saying the 23-year-old Clase has

grabbed the job.

"I love the way he attacks," Francona said. "I made a comment in spring training that he may have thrown too many strikes. And if that's a problem, we can deal with that. His future and present are really bright."

It's only happened twice at Progressive Field, but when the bullpen door opens and Clase emerges and heads toward the mound, there's a buzz in the ballpark.

There's one in the dugout, too.

"It's something that kind of fires me up, like, 'Here comes the big guy,'" slugger Franmil Reyes said. "There's no chance they're getting anything on this guy."

The Tigers didn't have much success against him, and Detroit manager A.J. Hinch came away impressed by Clase's velocity and location.

"When he can be around that strike zone and make the hitter defensive from the get-go, he can be really electric," Hinch said. "You never know how a guy is going to respond pitching late in games. But you know he's going to bring 100 mph in his back pocket every time with some cut action, and the hitter's probably going to be uncomfortable from the outset."

Clase was something of a mystery to the Indians, who acquired him from the Rangers in return for two-time Cy Young winner Corey Kluber. He was expected to have a significant role last season, but Clase suffered a minor neck injury in camp before being suspended 80 games for testing positive for performance-enhancing drugs.

The MLB ban was revised to cover the entire 60-game 2020 season. And while the radar gun says otherwise, Clase said it's been challenging to get back up to speed. □

Red Sox-Twins game postponed following fatal police shooting



Minnesota Twins' Byron Buxton, Kyle Garlick, and Jake Cave, left to right, celebrate the 10-2 win over Seattle Mariners in front of a Target Field sign that reads "Justice for George Floyd" at a baseball game Thursday, April 8, 2021, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

By **DAVE CAMPBELL**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins postponed their game against the Boston Red Sox on Monday because of safety concerns following the fatal police shooting of a Black man and the potential for unrest in the area.

The Red Sox and Twins were scheduled to begin a four-game series Monday afternoon at Target Field. The Twins said their decision was made in consultation with Major League Baseball and state and local officials. There was no word yet about rescheduling or the status of games set for

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The shooting of 20-year-old Duante Wright occurred Sunday after a traffic stop in Brooklyn Center, a suburb adjacent to Minneapolis. The death sparked violent protests, with officers in riot gear clashing with demonstrators into Monday morning. The Brooklyn Center police chief said the shooting was accidental, as the officer involved intended to fire a stun gun and not a handgun during a struggle with Wright. Police were trying to arrest him on an outstanding warrant.

The metropolitan area al-

ready has been on edge because of the ongoing trial of the first of four police officers charged in George Floyd's death last May.

"Out of respect for the tragic events that occurred yesterday in Brooklyn Center, and following the additional details in this evolving situation, the Minnesota Twins have decided it is in the best interests of our fans, staff, players and community to not play today's game," the organization's statement said. "The Minnesota Twins organization extends its sympathies to the family of Daunte Wright." □